(a) whether Government have decided to go in for upgradation of its MIG-21 BIS-Fishbed-N Fleet;

(b) if so, when was the decision taken and what are the details of the proposals;

(c) what progress has since been made in this regard;

(d) what are the details of bids, the names of countries, companies from where the bids have been received with the financial implications of each bid; and

(e) what is the latest position about the finalisation of the bids and taking up of the upgradation job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The government propose to upgrade MIG-21 BIS aircraft, for which Intention To Proceed' (ITP) has been issued to the Russian Mikoyan Design Bureau in March 94. Detailed discussions have been held with the concerned Russian agencies and known Western vendors of systems required for the upgrade. The upgradation package would consist of integration of indigenous, Russian and Western weapons/avionics. Requestes inviting proposals for supply of Western systems required for the upgrade have been issued to the vendors. Concerned Russian agencies are presently in the process of firming up the upgrade package, including systems being supplied by them, for which extensive discussions have been held with them by IAF. Design and development phase of the upgradation is planned to be undertaken in Russia. Productionisation of the upgraded version will be done by HAL.

Grenades supplied by Ordnance Factory, Kirkee

3135. SHRI VIREN J SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number and the cost of the grenades held by the Army at present which were supplied by the Ordnance Factory, Kirkee;

(b) when were these grenades supplied by the Ordnance Factory to the Amry;

(c) how many of these grenades are lying ineffective and since when and what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the cost of the ineffective grenades;

(e) what steps have so far been taken to make these grenades effective; and

(f) how Government propose to dispose of the ineffective grenades?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (f) Army is holding 28.83 lakhs grenades at a total cost of Rs. 83.39 crores, supplied over a period of time by Ordnance Factories. Out of this quantity, 17.86 lakh grenades costing Rs. 51.42 crores are held without igniter sets due to downgradation of the earlier version of igniter sets. Efforts are being made to increase production of metallic igniter for use with the grenades. The entire quantity of grenades available with the Army is serviceable and hence is not required to be disposed of.

Failure of Operation Rakshak

3136. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operation Rakshak launched by the Army in border areas to contain the Low Intensity Confilict (LIC) perpetuated by Pakistan has apparently not yielded the desired results;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the problems being faced by the Army in their operation particularly to check the infiltration of the Sudanes and Afghani mercenaries through Afghanistan, operating in the valley and making increased use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs); and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to make the Operation Rakshak more effective and ensure that it fulfils the functions underlaying its logistics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI

MALLIKARJUN): (a) In the various operations launched under Operation Rakshak, the Army has been able to achieve tangible results.

(b) Does not arise in view of Part (a) above.

(c) and (d) Due to the vast and difficult nature of the terrain particularly in J&K, it is not possible to hermetically seal the Line of Control or International Border. However, by deploying and redeploying forces, Army has been able to effectively check infiltration / exfiltration of ANEs.

India's Missile Programme

3137. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian experts have pointed out that India must develop a complete missile system to deter any neighbouring countries who are pursuing aggressive missile programmes for launching misile attacks on India;

(b) if so, whether India is surrounded by China and its arch enemy Pakistan both missile powers;

(c) if so, whether the missile programme have warned these nations that if they continued missile powers, India does not lack behind;

(d) whether the launching of Prithvi has created confidence among the Indian Army and has issued warning to Pakistan; and

(e) if so, whether Government has made it clear that they are continuing the missile development policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Based on the threat perception, Indian defence experts had identified a number of missile systems to be developed in an integrated mode to combat threat from any of the neighbouring countries. These missiles are being developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). No defence expert has expressed any specific views recently for further development of missile technology and systems.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) IGMDP envisages development of four state-of-the-art missile systems namely, surface-to-surface missile PRITHVI, short range surface-to-air missile TRISHUL, medium range surface-to-air missile AKASH and third generation anti-tank missile NAG. IGMDP also includes a project for development of reentry technology demonstrator AGNI which has been completed successfully.

(d) Two successful flight tests of 'PRITHVI' carried out on 4th and 6th June, 1994 as part of users trials has created necessary confidence in the Indian Army.

(e) The Government is fully committed to continue with the indigenous missile development programme.

Recovery of charges under Cantonments Act

3138. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have framed rules under the Cantonments Act 1924 relating to recovery of charges as per Standard Table of Rent from occupiers, lessees of Old Grant Leases and other classes of B(3) lands, plots and premises in civilian areas of cantonments;

(b) whether rules are there also for transfer of existing lease hold rights from one lessee to another in the event of death of original lessee with or without a will;

(c) whether probate is not required for such transfers;

(d) whether STR is recoverable in such events;

(e) whether terms and conditions are not changed;

(f) whether some cantonments authorities have not been recovering STR, removing unauthorised occupiers of these leases despite losses of Government revenue and properties; and

(g) if so, the fact and details thereof?